



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,265	09/24/2003	Yoshikazu Takemoto	2936-0199P	4302
2292	7590	01/24/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			DUONG, HUNG V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/668,265	Applicant(s) TAKEMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Hung v Duong	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



HUNG VAN DUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/24/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinya et al (Japan 2001-268613).

Regarding claims 1-2, 4-14 Shinya et al disclose an electronic appliance comprising a first casing 12 having an input portion, a second casing 15 having a screen display portion on one face thereof a coupling 13 that couples together the first and second casings 12, 15 and a controller portion 17 that controls screen display on the screen display portion, wherein the coupling 13 couples together the first and second casings such that the electronic appliance can be moved between a first state, in which the second casing is unfolded relative to the first casing with the screen display portion pointing in a direction of the input portion, and a second state in which the second casing is folded the first casing with a face of the second casing opposite to the screen display portion facing a face of the first casing on which the input portion is provided, and according to a detection signal from a detector that detects a change in the state of the electronic appliance between the first and second states, the controller portion 17

Art Unit: 2835

rotates the screen display by 90° between the first and a second states wherein the coupling 13 is a hinge mechanism comprising a folding shaft that couples together one side of the first casing and one side of the second casing in such a way as to permit the second casing 15 to be folded and unfolded relative to the first casing 12 and a rotation shaft that is perpendicular to the folding shaft and that permits the second casing 15 to rotate; in the second state, the second casing 15 and the coupling 13 are located within an area occupied by the first casing 12 wherein the first casing 12 is rectangular in shape, and measures from about 70 to about 100 mm in a direction of shorter sides thereof and from about 110 to about 150 mm in a direction of longer sides thereof; a ratio of a dimension of the coupling to a dimension of the second casing in the direction of the shorter sides is in a range of from 1:5 to 1:8; a rotation inhibition input portion that inhibits the screen display from being rotated by 90° wherein, in the second state, input signals from at least part of the input portion are ignored/ a part of the input portion located in an edge portion of the first casing and away from the coupling are ignored wherein the screen display portion is rectangular in shape, and carriage returns in contents of the screen display are executed at different positions for the first and second states according to height and a width of the screen display portion vary between the first and second states wherein the detector detects the second state.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3, 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that the second casing has a second screen display portion provided on the surface thereof opposite to the screen display portion or that an operation portion that permits operations to be performed to control contents of the screen display is provided in a right portion of a rear face of the first casing as seen from in front when the electronic appliance is the first state, and electronic appliance is changed from the first state to the second state, the screen display is rotated counter-clockwise by 90 as seen from the coupling , and the operation portion is located in an upper portion of a left side face of the electronic appliance when the electronic appliance is used in the second state.

3. Claims 17-32 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that a flexible connecting member that electrically connects together the first and second casings, and the flexible connecting member and rotation shaft is wound around surfaces of both the folding shaft and rotation shaft.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Moon (US Pat. 6,275,376) teaches portable computer display tilt/swivel mechanism.

Agata et al (US Pat. 6,680,845) teach information processing apparatus.

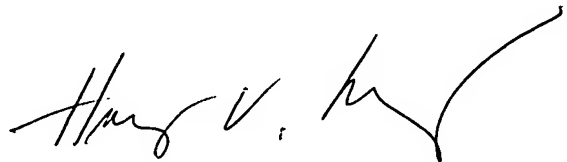
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2041. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956

HVD

1/18/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hung V. Duong', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hung Duong
Primary Examiner